



General Assembly

***Substitute Bill No. 5663***

***February Session, 2002***

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE IDLING OF SCHOOL BUSES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1       Section 1. Section 14-277 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2       following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2002*):

3       (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) to (c),  
4       inclusive, of section 14-242, the operator of any school bus, when about  
5       to bring his bus to a stop to receive or discharge passengers, shall  
6       signal his intention to do so by causing the flashing signal lights to be  
7       displayed for not less than fifty feet before he brings the bus to a stop  
8       so as to be clearly visible to the operator of any oncoming or  
9       overtaking vehicle or motor vehicle, except that the operator of any  
10      school bus equipped with amber flashing signal lights shall signal such  
11      intention by causing the amber flashing signal lights to be displayed  
12      for not less than one hundred feet before he brings the bus to a stop.  
13      The operator of any school bus, having brought his vehicle to a stop,  
14      shall not open the door to receive or discharge passengers until all  
15      vehicles approaching from the front and overtaking from the rear have  
16      stopped in compliance with the indicated signal to stop. The operator  
17      of any school bus equipped with amber flashing signal lights and a  
18      stop semaphore, having brought his vehicle to a stop, shall cause the  
19      red flashing signal lights to be displayed and the stop semaphore to be  
20      extended and shall not open the door until all vehicles approaching  
21      from the front and overtaking from the rear have stopped in

22 compliance with the indicated signal to stop. After all passengers are  
23 safely aboard or discharged and safely off the highway, the operator  
24 shall extinguish the stop lights and the operator of any school bus  
25 equipped with a stop semaphore shall withdraw the stop semaphore.  
26 He may then permit all standing traffic to pass before resuming  
27 forward progress. While such school bus is in motion the doors shall  
28 remain closed at all times and all passengers shall be required to  
29 remain seated. No operator of any school bus shall stop his vehicle on  
30 the main traveled portion of the highway to receive or discharge  
31 passengers when existing highway shoulders or adequate highway  
32 width is available or where curbs, bus stops or special facilities exist.  
33 No such operator may receive or discharge any passenger on a  
34 highway with separate roadways unless (1) a boarding passenger may  
35 reach the bus stop and a discharged passenger may reach his residence  
36 or other destination without crossing such highway, or (2) he stops the  
37 bus at a location having a traffic control signal or crossing guard.

38 (b) The operator of any school bus shall not operate the engine of  
39 any school bus for more than three consecutive minutes when the  
40 school bus is not in motion except (1) when the school bus is forced to  
41 remain motionless because of traffic conditions or mechanical  
42 difficulties over which the operator has no control, (2) when it is  
43 necessary to operate heating, cooling or auxiliary equipment installed  
44 on the school bus when such equipment is necessary to accomplish the  
45 intended use of the school bus, including, but not limited to, the  
46 operation of safety equipment, (3) when the outdoor temperature is  
47 below twenty degrees Fahrenheit, (4) when it is necessary to maintain  
48 a safe temperature for students with special needs, or (5) when the  
49 school bus is being repaired.

50 (c) Any person who violates any provision of this section shall, for a  
51 first offense, be deemed to have committed an infraction and for each  
52 subsequent offense shall be fined not less than one hundred dollars nor  
53 more than five hundred dollars.

This act shall take effect as follows:
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Section 1	<i>October 1, 2002</i>
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**ENV**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

**ED**        *Joint Favorable*